

Message Text

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN BOHEMIAN

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PASS S/PRS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE AND WHITE HOUSE FOR
SCOWCRFOFT AND NESSEN

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)

SUBJ: NEWS CONFERENCE BY SECRETARY OF STATE

HENRY KISSINGER, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1976

BEGIN TEXT

Q. IN REFERENCE TO AFRICA, IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS WE HAVE
BEEN HAVING SOME MILITARY FORCES MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION.
I WONDER, NUMBER 1, IF THEY ARE STILL THERE; AND, NUMBER TWO,
DOES THIS MEAN THAT WE MIGHT LOOK AT SOME KIND OF MILITARY
INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRISIS?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT ON THE LOCATION
OF MILITARY FORCES. WHAT
WE WANT TO DO IS DISCOURAGE OUTSIDE
POWERS FROM INTERVENING IN THIS AREA. WE
BELIEVE THAT THE AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SETTLED BY AFRICA.

IN FACT OUR BASIC
PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN TO SEE THAT THE AFRICAN NATIONS SETTLE
THEIR DISPUTES AMONG EACH OTHER. BUT THIS WAS AN UNUSUAL CASE
WITH INTERNATIONAL CONNOTATIONS, GIVEN THE INTERNATIONAL
IMPLICATIONS OF TERRORISM.

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Q. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE SEATTLE TO SEND UP A LITTLE TRIAL

BALLOON TO NORTH KOREA?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: OF COURSE, NO MATTER WHERE I DID IT,
I WOULD HAVE BEEN ASKED THAT QUESTION.

I WOULDN'T CONSIDER THIS A TRIAL BALLOON TO KOREA.
IT IS A TRIAL BALLOON TO ALL OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED,
AND IT WAS, OF COURSE, DISCUSSED FULLY WITH SOUTH KOREA
BEFORE WE DID THIS. IT WAS PUT FORWARD WITH THEIR CONCURRENCE.

I THINK SEATTLE IS A NATURAL PLACE TO SPEAK ABOUT ASIAN
AFFAIRS AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS.
BUT YOU CAN'T SPEAK ABOUT ASIAN AFFAIRS WITHOUT SPEAKING
ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF KOREA.

Q. BACK ON THE PURELY PAROCHIAL ISSUE WHICH YOU
LEARNED ABOUT WHEN YOU ARRIVED HERE. YOU MADE A PASSING
REMARK AT THE END THAT YOU WOULD RECONSIDER, AND THEN SORT
OF LAUGHED IT OFF, INDICATING THAT MAYBE OR MAYBE NOT WE
WOULD GET A REPLY. COULD YOU TELL ME WHETHER OR NOT YOU
ARE GOING TO RECONSIDER THE STATE DEPART-
MENT'S POSITION ON THE CANADIAN
NATURAL GAS QUESTION?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I WILL HAVE TO LOOK AT IT. I FRANKLY
DO NOT SEE HOW THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE THE POS-
ITION THAT A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CAN EXERCISE IN EFFECT MON-
OPOLISTIC CONTROL BY SETTING
DIFFERENTIAL PRICES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. I THINK
WE HAVE TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT A FOREIGN GOVT CAN ONLY
TREAT THE UNITED STATES AS
A UNIT AND NOT DIFFERENTIALLY WITH SEPARATE PARTS OF THE
UNITED STATES. AND SO, AS A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE, IT IS VERY
HARD TO RECONSIDER.

NOW, WHETHER THERE IS SOME RELIEF POSSIBLE, GIVEN THE SPECIAL
CONDITIONS OF THE
NORTHWEST, WE WILL HAVE TO --
THAT IS WHAT I HAVE TO LOOK INTO.

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Q. WHERE YOU AWARE THAT THE STATES OF WASHINGTON,
OREGON, AND IDAHO PETITIONED THE U.S. NEGOTIATOR WITH THE
CANADIAN FEDERAL ENERGY BOARD LONG BEFORE CANADA CAME UP WITH
THIS DISPARATE RATE, AND RECEIVED
AT THAT TIME ASSURANCES FROM THE ADMINISTRA-
TION THAT "YOU DO NOT NEED TO
SEND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES HERE,
WE WILL WATCH OUT FOR YOUR INTERESTS?"

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS, QUITE CANDIDLY. I AM GOING TO LOOK INTO THESE CIRCUMSTANCES TO SEE WHETHER THERE ARE ANY SPECIAL CONDIDTIONS. BUT, OF COURSE, WE WERE OPPOSED TO THE INCREASE IN RATES ALTOGETHER, SO WE MADE TWO APPEALS TO CANADA.

Q. MAY I FOLLOW ON A LITTLE ON THAT? WERE YOU AWARE THAT MR ENDERS ARRANGED THE MEETING FOR THE WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES IN OTTAWA? I MEAN, BEFORE HE BEACAME AMBASSADOR, WHILE HE WAS ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: ANYBODY WHO KNOWS MR ENDERS KNOWS HE CONSIDERS THE SECRETARY OF STATE AN UNAVOIDABLE INTRUSION IN HIS AUTHORITY (LAUGHTER). AND YOU MUST NOT ASSUME THAT I WOULD KNOW EVERY APPOINTMENT THAT HE HAS ARRANGED.

I HAVE TO BE QUITE CANDID. I DID NOT FOLLOW ALL THE DETAILS OF THAT NEGOTIATION, NOR IS THERE ANY REASON WHY THE SECRETARY OF STATE WOULD FOLLOW A NEGOTIATION ON RATES OF NATURAL GAS UNLESS SOME PRINCIPLE OF NATIONAL POLICY GOT INVOLVED. THAT PRINCIPLE TURNED OUT TO BE WHETHER A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO SET PREFERENTIAL RATES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. AND WHETHER WE MUST NOT TAKE THE POSITION THAT FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS MUST TREAT THE UNITED STATES AS A UNIT.

NOW, WHAT I WANT TO LOOK INTO IS WHETHER -- WHAT THE IMPLICATIONS ARE OF THE SPECIAL CONDIDTIONS TO WICH MY ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN.
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Q. DO YOU FIND THAT YOU ARE --

YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM WITH THIS TODAY -- BUT DO YOU FIND THAT YOU ARE HAVING A PROBLEM IN KEEPING FROM BEING DRAWN INTO THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, NOW THAT THE CONVENTION IS SO CLOSE?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WELL, THE SPEECH I GAVE TODAY I COULD HAVE GIVEN IT ANY TIME. I DON'T THINK THAT IS A PARTISAN ISSUE, AND THAT IS OUR POLICY. I WILL DO MY BEST NOT TO BE DRAWN INTO THE CAMPAIGN, AND I WILL CERTAINLY TAKE NO OFFENSIVE ACTION.

I WILL NOT LOOK FOR DISAGREEMENTS. SO, I WOULD PREFER TO KEEP FOREIGN POLICY NON-PARTISAN, AND TO HAVE IT DISCUSSED IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC ISSUES, RATHER THAN IN TERMS OF PERSONALITIES OR IN TERMS OF THE GOOD FAITH OF THE VARIOUS PEOPLE CONVERNED.

Q. DO YOU SHARE JIMMY CARTER'S WORRIES ABOUT MR REAGAN POSSIBLY HAVING A DANGEROUS NATURE?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: OH, I -- SHALL I SAY I RECIPROCATATE MR REAGAN'S FEELINGS? (LAUGHTER)

I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO THAT. I THINK THIS IS SOMETHING WHICH I PREFER NOT TO COMMENT ON.

Q. MR SECRETARY, YOU MADE IT QUITE CLEAR, I BELIEVE ON AT LEAST ONE OR TWO OCCASIONS, THAT YOU DO INTEND TO LEAVE THE STATE DEPT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. ARE THERE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES THAT YOU CAN FORESEE THAT CAN MAKE YOU CHANGE THAT OPINION?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: I STATED MY VIEW ON THE SUBJECT, I THINK IT WAS IN MAY, AND I HAVE SAID SINCE THAT I DON'T WANT TO GET DRAWN INTO FURTHER EXPLANATIONS OF IT. I THINK WE NOW UNCLASSIFIED

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HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTION, AND CAN SEE WHAT CONDITIONS ARE THEN.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS BEYOND YOUR PRESENT ROLE IN THE STATE DEPT?

A. I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED MY FUTURE PLANS WITH ANYBODY. THE PEOPLE APPROACH ME, I TURN THEM OVER TO MY LAWYER WHO IS, HOWEVER, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO SHARE WITH ME WHAT THEY ASK. SO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE DISCUSSED. I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME AS SECRETARY OF STATE TO DISCUSS MY FUTURE PLANS WITH OUTSIDERS UNTIL I HAVE RESIGNED. AND YOU KNOW, IT IS HARD TO KNOW WHAT ONE EXACTLY CAN DO -- UNLESS THERE IS SOME GOVERNMENT THAT NEEDS SOMEBODY TO RUN ITS FOREIGN POLICY. (LAUGHTER)

OKAY. THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN.

Q. THANK YOU, SIR.

(THE BRIEFING TERMINATED AT 2:17 PM).

KISSINGER

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